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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT,
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTORS OF
THE DISTRICTS

FOR THE YEAR

1949

To the Chairman and Members of the Joint Committee of Welwyn
Garden City Urban, Hatfield Rural and Welwyn Rural
Districts.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your districts for the year 1949.

At the request of several members a brief account of the personal health services administered by the County Council has been incorporated, in order to present a comprehensive picture of the development of the health services of the districts since the introduction of the National Health Service in July, 1948.

The health of the districts during the year under review has been good. The incidence of notifiable diseases has been light with the exception of the cases of poliomyelitis in the Hatfield Rural District, and the sharp outbreak of measles at Welwyn during the Autumn. The complete elimination of diphtheria resulting from the high proportion of infants and children fully protected by immunization, is worthy of note.

Health statistics compare favourably with previous years, the low infant mortality rates reflecting the high standard of midwifery established by the Peartree Maternity Hospital, and the medical practitioners in the area.

The great shortage of houses in both Urban and Rural Districts still constitutes the main obstacle to social progress and the attainment of satisfactory standards of living throughout the area. Although considerable progress has been made in each district during the post-war years, the present position still warrants grave concern.

I am indebted to Dr. J. F. O'Neill, Acting Medical Officer of Health, for his valuable assistance on many matters on taking up my position during August, and I must express my appreciation of the help and co-operation given by the Clerks and other officers of the respective District Councils.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Joint Committee, and to the Public Health Committees of the District Councils for their interest and support during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. R. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1950.

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	2,576
Population (mid-year 1949) as estimated by the Registrar General	18,160
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1949	4,880
Rateable value of the District, 31st December, 1949	£156,892
Net estimated product of a penny rate	£641

Social Conditions.

1. Welwyn Garden City is a modern planned residential and industrial town set down in the midst of rural Hertfordshire. For the young person engaged in one of the many industrial occupations now established in the Town, for the parent with a pride in his home anxious for his children to enjoy the full advantages of a free and healthy environment, and for the elderly seeking the quiet residential area sheltered from the hasty pace of modern life, the Garden City provides the amenities of the country, with the many social facilities, interests and activities of the town within easy reach.

2. There are factories each employing over a hundred hands, engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs, light iron castings, grinding wheels, radio sets, films, pharmaceutical products, and in building and constructional work. There are also firms engaged in the manufacture of sheet lead and lead piping, heavy engineering, and in the production of moulding powders for the plastic industry.

3. The principal small factories carry on the following industries :—
 Manufacture of dresses, underclothing, silk stockings, combs, silk strings, fine chemicals, foodstuffs, electrical appliances, wireless component parts, cattle foods, seed-sorting machinery, confectionery, motor lorries, pressed metal goods, furnishing ironmongery, vitreous enamelling, paints, raw enamels, waterproofing compounds, printing, springs, sandpaper, sheet metal products, waterprooferers and proof-stainers, and engineers.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes ...	60	63	123
Number of live births Legitimate...	151	153	304
Illegitimate	5	7	12
Number of still births Legitimate...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Number of deaths of Legitimate...	2	1	3
infants under one year Illegitimate	—	1	1

Births.

The progressive decline in the birth rate since the war has been maintained, and at 17.4 approaches the figure of 16.2 per 1,000 population during 1938.

Infant Mortality.

Four deaths occurred of infants under one year of age :—

Female	5 weeks	Congenital Malformation
Male	12 hours	Asphyxia
Female	6 weeks	Congenital Malformation
Not defined	1½ hours	Congenital Malformation.

Maternal Mortality.

	1949	1948
Deaths from puerperal and post abortive sepsis	1	—
Deaths from other maternal causes	—	—
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Total deaths from puerperal causes	1	—
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Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 total births—3.1.

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1938.

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1938	8.1	16.2	41.4
1939	7.48	15.7	30.6
1940	10.1	17.17	58.2
1941	7.2	16.3	35.2
1942	7.25	17.44	48.4
1943	7.54	20.00	17.39
1944	7.42	22.82	28.06
1945	7.10	18.87	49.42
1946	6.44	24.18	28.03
1947	7.46	22.07	19.32
1948	6.64	20.99	23.74
1949	6.77	17.40	12.65

The infant Mortality Rate of 12.65 is very satisfactory and is the lowest yet recorded for the area.

The Infant and Child Mortality figures for the year indicate the high standard of the Maternity and Child Welfare services in the area.

Deaths.

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred—in the town during the year.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	1
Other tuberculous disease	1	—
Influenza	—	1
Cancer, Malignant disease	22	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	4	8
Heart Diseases	14	17
Other circulatory diseases	3	2
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia	3	2
Other respiratory diseases	—	3
Nephritis	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
Congenital debility and Malformation ...	2	3
Suicide	—	1
Road traffic accidents	2	—
Other deaths from violence	1	1
Other defined diseases	3	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes ...	60	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

While the responsibility for the administration of the Maternity and Child Welfare, Health Visiting, Nursing and Home Help Services rests with the County Council, an important and active part is played by the Health Association of the Town in the staffing and detailed arrangements for the various clinics and nursing work in the area. The establishment of the Area Health Office in the town during the year has served further to assist in the effective work of the personal services, and ensure that they are best adapted to the varying needs of the area.

STAFF. The nursing team has been increased during the year the present establishment being :—

Divisional Nursing Officer ...	1 (part time)
Health Visitors	3
Home Nurses	3
Midwives	1

The high standard of work maintained by the Nursing Staff assisted by the many voluntary workers of the Health Association at the clinics is undoubtedly a main cause of the very satisfactory health statistics of the Town during the past year.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Clinic	Place	Time	Date
Child Welfare	Community Centre, Mill Green Road.	2—4 p.m.	Monday and Tuesday.
Child Welfare	Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road.	2—4 p.m.	Wednesday and Thursday.
Ante Natal and Post- Natal.	Community Centre, Mill Green Road.	2—4 p.m.	Friday.
Family Planning	Community Centre, Mill Green Road.	1.30—3 p.m.	Monday.
Sub- fertility	Community Centre, Mill Green Road.	7.30—9 p.m.	Thursday.
Minor Ailment (School Health Service).	Community Centre, The Annexe, Community Cen- tre, Mill Green Road.	9.30— 11.30 a.m.	Friday (by appoint- ment).
Dental ...	The Annexe, Com- munity Centre, Mill Green Road.	9 a.m.	Monday—Friday. (Doctor attends Monday a.m.)
		9.30 a.m.— 12.30 p.m.	Tuesday.
		9.30 a.m.— 12.30 p.m.	Thursday.
		2—5 p.m.	Thursday.
		2—5 p.m. (2nd and 4th only)	

Attendances at the Ante Natal Clinic have steadily declined since the introduction of the National Health Service during July, 1948, a greater proportion of women being under the direct supervision of the Peartree Maternity Hospital or medical practitioner during pregnancy. Every effort is made to encourage expectant mothers to attend the Clinic early in pregnancy for full clinical examination and blood tests, and there is as yet no evidence that the declining attendances at the clinic indicates a failure on the part of expectant mothers to obtain satisfactory advice and supervision early during pregnancy.

Attendances at Child Welfare and Ante Natal Clinics, 1949.

				Lawrence Hall	Community Centre
Infant Welfare	...	...	...	3,033	4,024
Ante Natal	...	...	...	—	252
Post Natal	...	...	...	—	23

Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics have been well maintained during the year, the general standard of child care, nutrition and health observed being very satisfactory. The sessions of Child Welfare undertaken by Dr. Flora Shepherd at the Lawrence Hall are of special value with their emphasis on the emotional development of the young child and early behaviour problems.

Midwifery Service.

The establishment of the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree during the war has undoubtedly created a very high standard of midwifery in the town, and the hospital is now recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives. Specialist advice and

treatment are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases, and regular ante-natal and post-natal sessions are held both for women who are subsequently entering the hospital for delivery, and those who are referred back to their own doctor for the continued ante-natal supervision before delivery. A full time midwife is employed by the Hertfordshire County Council for the town, and the weekly ante-natal and post-natal session is held at the Community Centre for the supervision of domiciliary midwifery cases. In addition to these facilities the Applecroft Nursing Home on the West side of the town is also mainly engaged with maternity cases.

School Health.

The general standard of layout, structure, and recreational facilities of the schools in the town are of a high level. The present overcrowding presents many problems, but will be greatly relieved when the new Junior School is opened in the near future at Templewood, and the new school meals canteens are completed at Peartree and Ludwick Schools. The medical inspection of those children in the maintained schools in the three prescribed age groups, and the eight year old group were completed during the year. The results show that the standard of the nutrition has been well maintained with improvement in the lower age groups.

The number of children found with unclean heads is still high, being above 2 per cent., but visits to the homes of the worse offenders show that overcrowding in the home, the employment of mothers in industry, and ignorance of domestic responsibility are social evils which must be corrected before any sure reduction can be expected. With the lapse of the Scabies Order, giving power to examine the heads of parents of children found repeatedly infested at school, the need for careful and persistent follow-up of problem families and prompt action under Section 54 of the Education Act, 1944, is essential. Findings in individual schools directly reflect the social background of the homes, and the experienced school nurse, by tactful and helpful approach to these neglected homes, can usually achieve more lasting improvement than the issuing of cleansing orders, and recourse to the magistrates' court. A large percentage of these problem families show on investigation that one or both parents are of low mental calibre, where prosecution could produce little, if any, help. The wider use by parents in the home of the new commercial disinfection preparations now available, following full instruction by the school nurse, may prove to be a useful adjunct to direct cleansing of persistent offenders.

With the introduction of the National Health Service, the responsibility for the treatment of defects disclosed, at school medical inspection, rests with the child's private doctor and the Regional Hospital Board. Children in need of treatment are therefore referred to their doctors and are subsequently re-inspected to ensure that the necessary advice and treatment has been obtained. The Minor Ailment Clinic at the Community Centre is open each morning for children referred directly by parents or heads of schools for simple advice, treatment and dressings.

School Health Service.

For full details of the various specialist and treatment clinics of the School Health Service, reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

Diphtheria Immunization.

The proportion of infants and children fully protected against diphtheria by immunization injections is maintained at a high level by the combined efforts of the medical practitioners, child welfare clinics and school health service, and has resulted in the complete elimination of diphtheria throughout the area. The outstanding success of the diphtheria immunization scheme over the past ten years in removing one of the most dangerous infectious diseases of infants and children is now apparent, especially to those who have been closely connected with the epidemiology and treatment of infectious diseases over a number of years. Yet this success in itself increases the need for a sustained effort on the part of those concerned in carrying out the scheme to ensure that the necessity for immunization in infancy with the reinforcing doses at five and 10 years, is effectively brought home to the parents now that the public awareness of the menace of diphtheria recedes into the past. It is regrettable that doctors and health visitors engaged in this work still meet parents who, though intelligent and well-informed, fail to be convinced of the need for diphtheria prevention.

Child Guidance.

Parents and children are referred to the Child Guidance Clinic of the Hertfordshire County Council attached to Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, for specialist advice and treatment. While this arrangement has served the needs of the town well in the past it is now realised that with the increased demand for this service and the growth of the town the effectiveness of these facilities would be greatly enhanced by having the Child Guidance sessions in the town. Staffing and accommodation difficulties render this impracticable at the present.

Hospital Facilities.

In addition to the Cottage Hospital with 17/20 beds, and the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree the town is served by the several large hospitals in the surrounding towns, where full specialist and diagnostic facilities are readily available.

Cases of infectious diseases are usually transferred in the first place to the Sisters Hospital at St. Albans, and in addition the Watford Isolation, Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet, and the Spittlesea Isolation, Luton, are available for these cases.

Ambulance Services.

During the past two years the ambulance service has been under the control of the Hertfordshire County Council, the ambulances operating in conjunction with the Fire Brigade and being maintained at the Fire Station Bridge Road, where approximately 2,000 calls are dealt with annually.

Vehicles. Two ambulances are attached to the station, one being a 1949 Daimler of latest design, having all modern advantages to ensure mechanical perfection and ease of transport. The establishment remains at eight professional ambulance men maintaining 24 hour service, and during daytime an additional ambulance is in service to assist with the numerous removal cases. All ambulance personnel qualify for the St. John Ambulance Association certificate, but most members of the staff pursue this interest as members of the St. John organisation. The equipment of the ambulances has recently been revised to ensure uniformity throughout the service, and an adequate reserve is maintained at each station. A certain number of sitting cars are now being introduced into the service for the transport of sitting cases to ease the calls upon the larger ambulances.

In addition to the ambulance service the Hospital Car Service controlled by the Hertfordshire County Council plays an important part in the transport of patients to hospital for treatment where it is unsuitable or impracticable to use public transport.

Home Help Service.

Welwyn Garden City did considerable pioneer work as one of the first towns to establish a Home Help Scheme, for the direct assistance of women in the home. This service has continued to expand, and under the control of the Hertfordshire County Council now maintains a staff of twenty full and part-time Home Helps. The Home Help Organiser is attached to the staff of the Divisional Medical Officer, and the great benefits resulting from the work of the home helps in families, with difficulties due to illness or old age, are now fully appreciated and the demand continues to increase. It is through the Home Help Service and the Home Nursing Service that the present heavy burden upon the hospitals in the area can be relieved to a large degree, and there is always a very close link between the Home Helps, Home Nurses, Midwives and the Almoners staff of the larger hospitals in the District.

Old Peoples' Welfare.

Increasing interest is being taken in the welfare of old people in the town. The W.V.S. is actively interested in this work, and maintains a mobile meals service in addition to organising old people's clubs, and the regular visiting of old persons in their homes. Here again there is a close link between the voluntary workers in this sphere and the work of the Health Visitors and Home Nurses.

Mortuary Premises.

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the District Council adjacent to the Council Offices, staffed by a part time mortuary attendant with considerable experience of these duties.

Laboratory.

Adequate laboratory facilities exist at the laboratory of Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, and the Regional Public Health Laboratory at Luton for all examinations required by medical practitioners and

the sanitary staff of the District Council. During the year 40 specimens were submitted for examination. Adequate supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles immune globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, and the public health department is used as a centre to which practitioners can bring in specimens or materials requiring laboratory examination.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year :—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	4
Scarlet Fever	... ..	12
Whooping Cough	... ..	206
Poliomyelitis	... ..	3
Measles	... ..	301
Pneumonia	... ..	5
Food Poisoning	... ..	16
Erysipelas	... ..	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	6
Dysentery	... ..	1

Eighty-three visits were made by the sanitary staff to investigate the home circumstances of cases of infectious disease.

Food Poisoning.

An outbreak of mild dysentery of the sonne type occurred among the children and staff of the Church Road Day Nursery during November and December, a total of 16 cases being diagnosed.

Following notification from the Matron of the Day Nursery a careful examination was made of the food preparation and distribution in the Nursery, and samples of suspected food-stuffs were submitted for analysis. Bacteriological examination of suspected cases revealed the presence of the organisms of sonne dysentery, and prompt action was taken to interview each member of the staff and ensure that known cases received full treatment, and were not re-admitted to the nursery until proved to be free from infection. The symptoms were not severe and all cases recovered after an interval varying from a few days to two—three weeks.

No definite evidence of contamination of food could be traced in this Nursery, but bacteriological examination indicated that one member of the staff who had shown no signs of infection was a carrier of the organisms and may have infected the children and other members of the staff by direct contact with play material, etc.

Following prompt exclusion and treatment of all cases, and increased supervision of the preparation of meals and daily routine of the children, the outbreak rapidly subsided so that no further cases were reported after the Christmas break.

Measles.

The high incidence of measles which was scattered throughout all districts of the town coincides with the biennial rise in incidence of this disease. Cases were uniformly of a mild character, the incidence of serious complications being very low.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Of the six cases of puerperal pyrexia notified during the year, five were of little clinical importance, the cause not being related to infection of the genital tract.

Scabies.

It is noteworthy that the incidence of scabies has rapidly declined in the post war years, and is now very rarely seen among children or adults.

Tuberculosis.

A complete check was made on all cases of tuberculosis at present on the registers for this area during the year, in order to bring the records up to date, and as correct as possible. The tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows :—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On register at 31st December, 1948	81	30	67	17	195
Removals from register during the year	22	11	21	8	62
Added to register during the year	13	1	11	2	27
Cases on the register at 31st December, 1949	72	20	57	11	160

It is to be expected that Welwyn Garden City by reason of its residential amenities as a modern planned town in a rural area would attract a higher proportion of residents suffering from ailments of the chest than other less salubrious towns, and indeed when presenting a plea for special consideration of tuberculosis cases before the Housing Committee, the question is often raised as to whether an unduly high proportion of people with diseases of the chest are being attracted to the Town. The figures shown above do not confirm this supposition, and indeed it would appear that the number of cases now on the registers in Welwyn Garden City compare favourably with the incidence in neighbouring towns in Hertfordshire.

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis and supervision of all cases in this area, the Chest Physician attending on Monday mornings for the examination of patients from Welwyn Garden City. In each case following diagnosis, home visiting is promptly arranged through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors attached to the clinic, and a full report is received by the Medical Officer of Health, who is thus able to assess the home circumstances of each case brought on to the register. The necessity for special consideration of the housing need of tuberculous persons cannot be too strongly emphasised, especially as these may call for

special priority far above the ordinary scheme of points allocation. The housing position is rendered more difficult by the great shortage of hospital and sanatorium accommodation and tuberculosis nursing staff, so that many of these cases remain at their own homes under domiciliary treatment and supervision. The danger of thus returning advanced chronic cases to their homes in a highly infective state, being in close contact with other members of the family and young children, is too often the cause of wide infection of many contacts.

Mass Radiography.

There have been no visits of the mass radiography unit to the town during the year, but these facilities have been available for industrial groups from the Town at Luton and St. Albans.

Section D.—HOUSING.

The housing shortage remains the main contributory cause of unsatisfactory standards of health in the homes of the people, and must remain a cause for grave concern on the part of those interested in the social background of family life.

Although Welwyn Garden City has a great advantage in having none of the problems associated with old derelict and insanitary houses, yet the problems created by the existence of families with children in two or three small rooms can prove just as acute and difficult to solve.

The number of families housed in permanent new accommodation during the year indicates the great progress made to meet this urgent need. The standard of construction of dwelling houses now being built is high incorporating most of the advances in design and building technique of the post war years.

The following housing figures for the year are given by the Housing Manager :—

	31st Dec. 1948	31st Dec. 1949
Number of houses owned by the Council	1,672	1,757
Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation	10	6
Number of families housed in temporary huts	12	12
Number of families housed during the year :—		
(i) New accommodation { Temporary	52	—
{ Permanent	45	85
(ii) Other accommodation	36	33
Number of applicants on the housing list	1,224	1,383

Section E. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I. WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore-holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram where the Pumping Station is situated. Six pumps raise the water to the reservoir on the Sherrards Woods ridge, which provides a storage capacity of 1,000,000 gallons for the town supply.

From the same station the Council pump water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council and part of the Rural District of Hertford.

During the year the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been entirely satisfactory, in quality and quantity. The major part of the public supply is chlorinated before distribution. Water samples are obtained at regular intervals and a total of nineteen samples of the public supply were obtained and submitted for laboratory examination.

All these nineteen samples were found to be of satisfactory quality.

Three samples of raw water were examined bacteriologically and two were examined chemically ; of the latter one sample was free from metals and the other contained less than .03 parts per million of iron, other metals being absent. Fourteen samples of chlorinated water were examined, eleven bacteriologically and three chemically ; of the latter two samples were free from metals and one contained less than .03 parts per million of iron, other metals being absent.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public mains are as follows :—

				Number of dwelling- houses	Number of population
(a) Direct to houses	...	...	...	4,873	18,140
(b) By means of stand-pipes	...	...	...	5	15

Laboratory Reports on the Public Water Supply.

The reports following are representative reports of such examinations.

(a) One sample of water was taken from a tap from Main at 48, Brockwood Lane and submitted for chemical examination. The result was as follows :—

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 28th March, 1949, from Welwyn Garden City U.D.C.

Taken by M. Stockdale. Witness : K. T. Aston.

Dated 28th March, 1949, 10.15 a.m.

				<i>Chemical results in parts per million</i>
Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Colour	...	...	...	Normal—Odour Nil.
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral : 7.1 Free Carbon Dioxide 29.
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	...	520
Total Solids, 180° C.	...	...	...	350
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	16
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	6.00 Nitrites, less than 0.01.
Hardness : Permanent	...	...	...	35
Temporary	...	...	...	250
Total	...	...	...	285
Metals	...	...	...	Iron : less than 0.03. Other metals absent.
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	...	0.00
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate...	...	...	...	250
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	0.06

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

(b) Report on the bacteriological examination of a sample of water received 28th March, 1949, from Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council. Labelled—Tap from main at Council Offices (after chlorination). Date 28th March, 1949, 10 a.m. Signed and taken, M. Stockdale.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in :—

				<i>Bacteriological Results</i>
1 day at 37° C.	...	...	...	Nil per ml.
2 days at 37° C.	...	...	...	Nil per ml.
3 days at 20° C.	...	...	...	Nil per ml.
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl Welchii Reaction	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) Gordon Miles.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

(c) Report on the bacteriological examination of a sample of Water received 1st November, 1949, from the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council. Labelled tap from rising main to No. 2 Pump—Council's pumping station (not chlorinated).

Date 31st October, 1949, 11.30 a.m.

Signed and taken—M. Stockdale.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml, in :—

1 day at 37° C.	...	...	Nil per ml.
2 days at 37° C.	...	...	Nil per ml.
3 days at 20° C.	...	...	Nil per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction			Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (Type 1)	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) Gordon Miles.

For the Counties' Public Health Laboratories.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram rivers, which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east, and discharges into sewage disposal works in the north-east corner of the district. The whole drainage system is new and in a satisfactory condition.

Sewage from the Valley Road District is raised by an automatically controlled Pumping Station to the head of the main sewer.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. Sludge effluent is discharged on the surface of adjoining land without nuisance.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, with the exception of those cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

(a) No. of pail closets abolished ; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years	...	...	36
(b) No. of pail closets remaining at the end of 1949			37

Of the 37 houses having pail closets, 19 are the subject of demolition orders.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.* All premises have galvanised iron dustbins for the deposit of refuse. Their provision is enforceable by section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Act, 1932. Refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

All such refuse is tipped at a dump near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Such rats as may be gain access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed with poison and hydrocyanic acid gas.

(b) *Street Cleansing.* This is controlled by the Surveyor.

(c) *Gully Cleansing.* All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing, Ltd., who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(d) Such cesspools as there are are emptied by Private Contractors at the request of and at the expense of the owner of the premises concerned.

(e) *Dustbins.* The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find. 21 new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year :—

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	...	167
„ Factories (without mechanical power)	...	17
„ Workplaces	... ..	13
„ Food Stores	... ..	121
„ Cowsheds, Dairies	... ..	39
„ Licensed Premises	... ..	7
„ Infested Premises (rats and mice)	... ..	1,368
„ Shops	... ..	43
„ <i>re</i> Insect pests	... ..	181
„ of Dwellings (excluding Inspections under H.A., 1936)		208
„ Schools	... ..	17
No. of Premises treated for Bed Bugs	... ..	9
No. of Premises Disinfected	... ..	32
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under H.A., 1936...	...	189

Special Inspections or Visits made *re* :—

Smoke observations	... ..	42
Water Samples	... ..	19
Milk Samples	... ..	12
Dustbins	... ..	29
Accumulations of refuse	... ..	38
Council Property	... ..	49
Miscellaneous visits	... ..	78

(b) (1) Number of Informal Notices served	... ..	64
(2) Number of Statutory Notices served	...	1

(c) (1) Number of Informal Notices.
63 were complied with, 1 was not complied with, and a Statutory Notice then served.

(2) Number of Statutory Notices.
1 was complied with.

(iv) (a) SHOPS.

There are 41 shops in the district. Forty-three inspections of shops have been made.

Shops Act, 1934.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and any necessary representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act.

The following action under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Shops Act, 1934, was taken :—

	Defects Found	Informal Notices	Defects Remedied
Want of Cleanliness ...	3	3	3
Sanitary Defects	3	3	3
Other Nuisances or defects	5	5	5

(b) OFFICES.

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding ventilation, lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment. All buildings in the town with few exceptions are constructed without basements.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

There are six occupied caravans which are being controlled under Town Planning procedure.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Smoke observations made	42
Smoke nuisances	2

In each case where smoke was produced so as to be a nuisance, the factories concerned took steps to avoid repetition of the nuisance.

It appears that the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. This may be attributed to the high consumption of electricity. Practically every house is wired for electricity, and domestic consumption in the town is higher than anywhere else in the country. Factories are wired for electricity, which in all instances provides the motive power. Steam boilers or furnaces are used for heating or trade processes only.

(vii) SWIMMING POOL.

(1) The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

During the year six samples of water from the Pool were examined.

Samples bacteriologically examined.

Of the four samples, two were reported as being of water suitable for bathing purposes ; one was considered as being of inferior clarity and bacterial quality, and one as containing excessive numbers of bacteria.

Samples chemically and bacteriologically examined.

Of the two samples, one was considered suitable for bathing purposes and the other as being of inferior clarity and containing an excessive number of bacteria.

(2) The laboratory reports indicated that the three unsatisfactory samples were not regarded as unsuitable for bathing purposes, but that improvement in the quality of the water was desirable. When unsatisfactory reports were received, steps were taken to increase the chlorine dosage. The provision of a filtration and chlorination plant and other improvements were authorised.

Swimming is one of the finest forms of physical training for people of all ages. In particular, swimming develops correct posture and encourages deep breathing and good chest formation. During inspections of school children in the Garden City, round shoulders, flat chests, defective breathing and poor posture, are too frequently seen, and it may be stated with assurance that regular swimming exercise would do enormous good in rectifying this.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) Houses found infested	...	...	...	...	9
(a) Council houses...	...	...	...	6	
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	3	
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	9

(2) The proprietary preparation used is “ Zaldecide-DDT.”

Method.

Since the introduction of DDT the destruction of bed bugs has been made simple and effective. The fumigant is in liquid form and is projected in the form of a jet or fine spray into the infested parts of the house or into infested furniture and other articles. No sealing up of openings or the removal of woodwork etc., is necessary. Rooms treated may be re-occupied the same day.

(3) Any house found infested is at once treated ; the tenants concerned are asked to report at once, if they notice any fresh evidence of the presence of bugs, after their house has been treated. Emphasis is laid on the fact that the presence of bugs is nothing to be ashamed of. The value of cleanliness is also stressed.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	135
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					301

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	22
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					22
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...		0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	31
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices :—</i>						
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...			22
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—</i>						
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...		Nil
(b) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Note : 19 houses are the subject of existing demolition orders.						
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.*

The Housing Act, 1936, provides that for the purposes of Part IV of the Act (this deals with overcrowding) that “dwelling-house” means any premises used as a separate dwelling by members of the working classes or of a type suitable for such use. It is rare in the Garden City, to find heavily occupied houses which are occupied by persons who are not related, and the suggestion that parts of such houses are occupied as a separate dwelling would be difficult legally to sustain, as the occupants probably eat and cook in common and the house is occupied as a whole. The smaller type of 3-bedroom non-parlour type Council house, has a permitted number under the Act of $5\frac{1}{2}$ units, and would not be overcrowded under the act if it contained, for example, a family of man, wife and four children aged 9 years, 7 years, 3 years and $\frac{3}{12}$ year, with two adult relatives. Dwelling-houses which are not overcrowded under the act often contain more persons than is desirable, on health grounds.

Section F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

(1) There are 6 milk Distributors registered, of whom only 3 occupy premises in the area. The major portion of the milk sold is produced outside the district. Three premises are registered as dairies.

During the year 39 inspections were made of cowsheds and dairies.

(2) MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

The following Licences were issued during 1949 :—

Licence in respect of the establishment at which Tuberculin Tested Milk is bottled	...	1
Licence in respect of the establishment at which pasteurisation is carried on	... ..	1
Licences in respect of other premises from which :—		
(a) Pasteurised milk is sold	... ..	2
(b) Tuberculin Tested Milk is sold	... ..	2
(c) Sterilised milk is sold	... ..	2

Supplementary Licences.

To sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	... ..	3
To sell Pasteurised Milk	... ..	2

Contraventions.

Four infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, were found. Informal notices were sent to the distributors concerned and complied with by them.

(3) BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The County Council is responsible for the enforcement of section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and under that section samples for biological examination are obtained from Tuberculin Tested, accredited and non-designated herds, and examined for the presence of Tubercule Bacilli and Brucella Abortus.

It is estimated that approximately 90% of milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised or heat treated before being retailed. Tests of milk in these categories by the phosphatase test showed that of 62 samples tested, 59 passed this test. This indicates to all practical purposes that the 59 samples were free from pathogenic organisms.

4. MILK SAMPLING.

Samples of milk are regularly taken for bacteriological examination. The results of the examination of the 96 samples obtained during the year are given below.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

From October 1st, 1949, new regulations abolished the Coliform test.

Of 24 samples obtained before October 1st, and subjected to the Methylene Blue and Coliform tests, 22 samples passed both these prescribed tests, one sample failed to pass both tests and one sample failed to pass the Coliform test. Of the 9 samples obtained after October 1st, all passed the Methylene Blue Test.

Pasteurised Milk.

Of the 20 samples obtained, 19 passed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests and one sample passed the former test but failed to pass the latter test.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Of the 13 samples obtained, all passed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests.

Heat Treated Milk.

There are no legally prescribed tests for this grade of milk, but the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests are appropriate. Of the 29 samples obtained 28 passed both tests and one sample failed to pass the Phosphatase test.

Raw Milk.

No tests are legally prescribed. The Methylene Blue test is appropriate. The one sample obtained failed to pass this test.

Examination of Milk Bottles.

Some empty milk bottles were obtained immediately before they were due for filling and submitted for bacteriological examination. The laboratory report concluded : " These are good bottle counts. It is not unusual to find some organisms in bottles after they have been cleaned and treated, and these bottles appear to have been adequately dealt with."

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no slaughter houses in the district. The system of inspection in operation in the district consists of the inspection of shops selling meat and other foods, such premises were found to be well kept and in a sanitary condition.

A number of meat and other perishable food vendors' vehicles come into the district ; these are inspected at intervals.

No. of official inspections of Food Premises	...	...	121
„ „ irregularities under Meat Regulations	...	...	0

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

Premises manufacturing or retailing food were found to be generally of satisfactory hygienic standard. Infringements were found at 3 premises, comprising the storage of soft drinks in a lobby to a sanitary convenience, a leaking roof, and absence of washing facilities and an insanitary pail closet. These were remedied and included the provision of main drainage, an internal hot and cold water supply, a sink, and new sanitary accommodation with a W.C. A total of 2457 pounds of food were found to be unsound and voluntarily surrendered.

During the year, 4 samples of ice cream were obtained and submitted for laboratory examination, by the Methylene Blue Test. One sample was graded in Provisional Grade 1, and three samples in Provisional Grade 2. These results indicate that the samples were of satisfactory bacterial quality.

There are no premises in the town in which ice cream is manufactured.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, concerning adulteration, are administered by the County Council.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The above examinations are carried out at :—

- (1) Hill End Laboratory, St. Albans, Herts.
- (2) Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
- (3) Public Analyst, Peek House, 20, Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.

(e) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds in the district.

Section G. GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937,

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Premises (1)				Inspections (2)	Number of : Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES	with	Mechanical				
Power ...	...	...	...	167	10	0
FACTORIES	without	Mechanical				
Power ...	...	...	...	17	0	0
OTHER PREMISES	under	the				
Act ...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Total ...				189	10	0

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :				
Insufficient	0	0	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	9	9	0	0
Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0
Other offences	1	1	5	0
Total	10	10	5	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937, PART VIII.

The occupiers of two local factories issue home work to 15 outworkers in the town. In addition three local outworkers are employed by London firms. The outwork is carried out in wholesome premises.

FACTORIES—GENERAL INFORMATION.

All factories in the district are less than 30 years old and consequently are of satisfactory construction. The health conditions under which factory workers are employed are satisfactory. Each factory is wired for electricity.

Plans for all new factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are approved. Where the Council is authorised to reject the plans by reason of their non-compliance with sections 37, 43 or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the plans are either returned to the Proposers for agreed amendment or rejected. Where there is no authority to reject the plans but the erection of the factory concerned is likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, or the Public Health Act, 1936, appropriate suggestions are made to the proposers.

RATS AND MICE.

From the 1st of April, 1949, the County Council delegated to this Council its powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Mr. D. A. Rose was appointed Rodent Operative and commenced his duties on July 10th, 1949.

During the year a total of 1,368 visits were made to premises to destroy rats or mice or to ascertain whether they were present.

Action was taken to destroy rats on 85 premises and for this purpose 945 visits were made.

Mice were destroyed in 57 premises, involving 284 visits. In addition 139 premises were surveyed and found not to be infested.

Sewer manholes numbering 106 were test baited in August, there being a complete or partial take of bait in 6 of these, in which poison bait was then laid. In October a sewer maintenance treatment in 45 manholes, in the areas where the 6 "takes" had previously occurred, was carried out. This resulted in a complete or partial take of bait in 18 manholes, in which poison bait was then laid.

Destruction is by the methods laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; poison being generally used.

INSECT PESTS.

One hundred and eighty-one visits were made concerning complaints of the presence of ants, beetles, fleas, earwigs, etc. The measures necessary to eradicate the pests were taken.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER.

Nuisances and defects dealt with.

PREMISES.

Defective house roofs...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Galvanised dust-bins provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	21
Damp houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	...	4
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
New ventilators	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ceilings renewed	...	...	...	...	...	7
New floors	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective ranges	...	...	...	...	...	4

DRAINS.

Defective drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	23

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

New W.C.'s fixed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective sink and bath waste pipes, traps, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	9
New accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	6

GENERAL.

Premises infested by rats and/or mice	...	...	...	...	...	142
Insect infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	65
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective house floors	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	22
Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous nuisances and repairs	...	...	...	...	...	14
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	32
New paving	...	...	...	...	...	13
Defective gullies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	10

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911 AND 1928.

There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Infected Premises.

DISINFECTION.

No. of infected Rooms disinfected in 32 infected houses, 65.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

The above Acts are administered by the County Council through the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following is a list extracted from the Register of Factories showing the wide range of articles manufactured or dealt with in the town.

FACTORIES.

Factories making the following —

Agricultural Machinery ...	I	Instruments and Light En-	
Automatic Machines ...	I	gineering ...	8
Building Requisites ...	3	Metal Scrapers ...	I
Cattle and Poultry Foods...	I	Metal Workers ...	2
Cellulose acetate ...	I	Moulding Powders ...	2
Cement Water Proofer ...	I	Paints and Varnishes ...	I
Coil and Helical Springs...	2	Radio Sets... ..	I
Combs and Vulcanite Goods	I	Radio Set Accessories ...	I
Corsets	I	Red Lead	I
Cosmetics and Medicines...	I	Road Sweeping Machines,	
Cycle Accessories	I	etc.	I
Dresses	2	Specialties from Paper and	
Electrical Components ...	I	Textiles	I
Electrical Resistances ...	I	Steel Office Equipment ...	I
Electrodes for Welding ...	I	Strings for Tennis Racquets	I
Enamels : Raw	I	Sweets	2
Grinding Wheels	I	Waterproofers and Stain-	
Hair Brushes	I	proofers	I

FACTORIES.

Bakery and Confectionery	2	<i>In addition the below mentioned work</i>	
Electrical Station	I	<i>is carried out in Factories —</i>	
Food Factory	4	Boot Repairing	3
Film Studio	I	Cycle Repairing	2
Iron Foundry	I	Dressmaking	I
Laundry	I	Engineering : Construc-	
Lead Mills	I	tional	I
Manufacturing Chemists ...	2	Engineering : Heating ...	2
Printing Works	2	Gas Apparatus Repairing	I
		Motor Repairing	3
		Upholstering	I

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL,

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and Sanitary
Inspector for 1949*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H. from 29th August, 1949.

J. F. O'NEILL, M.B., B.Ch. (Acting from 1st January, 1949 to
28th August, 1949.)

Sanitary Inspectors.

S. W. WRIGHT, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary
Inspector.

D. N. FAULKNER, M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative.

T. HARRIS (Commenced 5th April, 1949).

Clerks.

Mrs. E. E. DEAMER.

A. A. W. CALLABY.

HATFIELD CLEAN FOOD EXHIBITION



S. W. WRIGHT

MARCH, 1949

HATFIELD CLEAN FOOD EXHIBITION



S. W. WRIGHT



S. W. WRIGHT

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	... ..	22,733
Population (mid-year 1949 as estimated by the Registrar General)	... ..	22,770
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1949	... ..	5,930
Rateable value of the District, 31st December 1949	... ..	£174,138
Product of a penny rate for the year	...	£692

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Hatfield Rural District is mainly an agricultural and residential area extending from the middle of Hertfordshire to the borders of Middlesex and the Northern perimeter of the Outer Metropolitan area. The ancient town of Hatfield which is the main administrative and social centre of the area has also several large and important industries including the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company Limited.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	... ..	101	107	208
Number of live births	{ Legitimate	176	174	350
	{ Illegitimate	10	17	27
Number of still births	{ Legitimate	4	3	7
	{ Illegitimate	1	—	1
Number of deaths of infants under one year	{ Legitimate	2	3	5
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—

BIRTHS.

The gradual fall in the birth rate in the post war years has been maintained.

INFANT DEATHS.

The Infant Death Rate of 13.26 is most satisfactory being the lowest recorded for the area. This figure reflects the high standard of the midwifery and child welfare services throughout the District.

Five deaths occurred in infants under one year of age:

Female	...	8 months	...	Gastro enteritis
Male	...	14 hours	...	Prematurity.
Male	...	4 hours	...	Asphyxia.
Male	...	14 days	...	Broncho pneumonia.
Female	...	4 days	...	Prematurity.

MATERNITY MORTALITY.

	1949	1948
Deaths from puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—
Deaths from other maternal causes	—	—

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality rates since 1938 :—

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1938	8.39	18.40	26.31
1939	8.97	16.22	30.93
1940	9.24	18.03	36.01
1941	9.24	15.03	36.60
1942	9.34	18.36	20.99
1943	9.10	15.78	48.80
1944	10.82	20.25	29.41
1945	7.99	15.42	42.07
1946	9.25	19.00	24.57
1947	8.90	19.83	41.06
1948	7.71	17.86	49.02
1949	9.17	16.55	13.26

DEATHS.

The following table is an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred—in the area during the year.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	3	2
Other tuberculous disease	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—
Cancer, Malignant disease	17	22
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	11	18
Heart Diseases	36	33
Other circulatory diseases	2	4
Bronchitis	4	1
Pneumonia	4	5
Other respiratory diseases	—	1
Gastric or Duodenal Ulcer	2	1
Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	—	1
Other digestive diseases	—	2
Nephritis	1	2
Congenital debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	3	3
Suicide	3	1
Road traffic accidents	1	—
Other deaths from violence	1	4
Other defined diseases	11	5
	<hr/> 101 <hr/>	<hr/> 107 <hr/>

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The Personal Health Services in the Area, viz. Maternity and Child Welfare, Midwives, Home Nursing, Health Visiting and Home Help Service are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council. The establishment of the Divisional Health Office has ensured closer integration of these services with the work of the District Council and their gradual extension to meet the needs of all parts of the area. Committees of voluntary workers are active in all centres and are responsible for a large part of the local arrangements for the Child Welfare Clinics, and the Home Help Service.

NURSING STAFF.

A staff of eight full time nurses are engaged in the Health Visiting, School Health work, Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing in the District. The high standard of work maintained by these nurses ably assisted by the local voluntary workers is largely responsible for the satisfactory health statistics of the area.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Clinic	Place	Time	Date
Child Welfare	Northcotts, Great North Rd., Hatfield.	1.45—4.15 p.m.	Alternate Fridays.
Ante-Natal Post-Natal	{ Northcotts, Great North Rd., Hatfield.	9.30—11.30 a.m.	Alternate Fridays
Child Welfare	Methodist Hall, Birchwood Ave., Hatfield.	1.45—4.15 p.m.	Alternate Fridays.
Child Welfare	Brookman's Park Hotel Annexe, Brookman's Park	2.30—4.30 p.m.	1st and 3rd Monday in the month.
Child Welfare	The Cabin, Station Road, Cuffley.	2—4 p.m.	1st and 3rd Monday in the month.
Ante-Natal Post-Natal	{ The Cabin, Station Road, Cuffley.	1.30—2 p.m.	1st and 3rd Monday in the month.
Infant Weighing	Essendon ...	3 p.m. ...	1st Thursday in the month
Child Welfare	Church Hall, Little Heath.	2—4 p.m.	2nd and 4th Monday in the month.
Child Welfare	Dixon's Hill Road, North Mimms.	2—4.30 p.m.	1st and 3rd Thursday in the month.

Arrangements were made during the year to expand the Essendon Weighing Session to a full Child Welfare session to be held from 2—4 p.m., on the 2nd and 4th Thursday in each month.

For full details of the various specialist, diagnostic and treatment clinics of the School Health Service reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer. These include Speech Training, Orthoptic, Orthopaedic, Medical Inspection and Minor Ailment Sessions.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

This service is administered by the Hertfordshire County Council for all pupils attending maintained schools in the district. Children in the three prescribed aged groups and the eight year old group were examined during the year, the records showing that the standard of nutrition and health has been well maintained.

The suspension of the School Dental facilities throughout the district, due to staff difficulties, is a cause for deep concern as the effects of lack of dental supervision in the schools is now becoming readily apparent. Local dental practitioners at present fully engaged on their commitments under the National Health Service rarely have sufficient time available to ensure adequate supervision and preventive treatment of minor dental defects in young children. Emergency treatment of dental caries which has become urgent because of toothache, too frequently illustrates the lack of this essential dental supervision in the schools.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Attendances at the ante-natal and post-natal clinics throughout the district have continued to decline since the introduction of the National Health Service, as more women are receiving their ante-natal supervision from medical practitioners or maternity hospitals. A full time midwife is employed by the Hertfordshire County Council at Hatfield, and part time Health Visitor Midwives are responsible for domiciliary midwifery at their Centres.

With the closure of the Brocket Hall Maternity Hospital most women needing hospital delivery are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, which has now established a very high standard throughout the area. Full facilities for specialist advice and treatment are available at this hospital. The southern part of the district is served by maternity hospitals at Barnet and Enfield.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

The need for diphtheria prevention in infancy and the reinforcing injections at five and 10 years of age is now becoming increasingly recognized throughout the district, and a high proportion of infants and children are fully protected.

The complete success of the Diphtheria Immunization Scheme for the past 10 years is reflected in the elimination of this disease from the district, no cases having been reported during the year. This is the second year during which no notifications of diphtheria have been received, so that the great achievement calls for sustained effort on the part of all those responsible for the maintenance of the scheme.

CHILD GUIDANCE.

Parents and children are referred to the Child Guidance Clinic of the Hertfordshire County Council attached to Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, for specialist advice and treatment. While this arrangement has served the needs of the district well, it is now realised that with the increasing demand for this service and the growth of the

main centres of population the effectiveness of these facilities would be greatly enhanced by having Child Guidance sessions at Hatfield. Staff difficulties render this impracticable at present.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

There are no hospitals in the Rural District, but the area is well served by the several large hospitals at St. Albans, Potters Bar, Barnet and Hertford, where full specialist and diagnostic facilities are readily available. There are in addition the small Cottage Hospital at Welwyn Garden City with 17/20 beds, and the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital.

Cases of infectious disease are usually transferred in the first place to the Sisters Hospital at St. Albans, and in addition the Watford Isolation, Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet and the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton, are available for these cases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The service has been maintained by the Hertfordshire County Council during the past two years, and is administered with the Fire Service.

A staff of five ambulance men is maintained at Hatfield, which is a satellite station of the Central Depot at Welwyn Garden City, the ambulance being manned from 7 a.m.—11 p.m. each day. The hospital car service renders valuable assistance in the transport of the sick for hospital treatment.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This service continues to expand and under the control of the Hertfordshire County Council now maintains a staff of 13 full and part time Home Helps.

The Home Help Organiser at Northcotts Clinic, Hatfield, is attached to the staff of the Divisional Medical Officer, and has in addition an active Committee of voluntary workers to advise her in the selection of staff and the local application of the Service. The great benefits of assistance to the mother in the home in cases of illness, childbirth and old age are fully appreciated, and the Service is closely linked with the work of the Health Visitors, Midwives and Home Nurses. Increasing requests for assistance under the Scheme are now being made by the Almoning staffs of the hospitals to ensure adequate after care of patients on leaving hospital.

LABORATORY.

Adequate laboratory facilities exist at the laboratory of Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, and the Regional Public Health Laboratory at Luton for all examinations required by medical practitioners and the sanitary staff of the District Council. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles immune globulins are available to practitioners in the district on request, and the public health department is used as a centre to which practitioners can bring in specimens or materials requiring laboratory examination.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	31
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	61
Measles	...	...	...	281
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	10
Pneumonia	...	...	...	35
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	19
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1

Measles.

The high incidence of measles which was scattered throughout the whole district coincides with the biennial rise in incidence of this disease. Cases were uniformly of a mild character, the incidence of serious complications being very low.

Scarlet Fever.

Cases notified were scattered throughout the district and were uniformly mild in character. It is now considered rarely necessary or advisable for these mild cases of scarlet fever to be admitted to an Isolation Hospital, as it has been found in practice in the past that these children may come into contact with a more serious type of the disease during their stay in hospital, a second, more severe, attack resulting. Provided facilities are available in the home for room isolation of these mild cases, they are undoubtedly better nursed at home, and provided simple practical instructions regarding current disinfection are carried out, they are unlikely to give rise to further cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Of the 19 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified, 18 were notified from The Bocket Hall Maternity Hospital, that dealt with a large number of deliveries during the year. None of these cases were of serious clinical importance.

Scabies.

It is noteworthy that the incidence of scabies has rapidly declined in the post war years, and is now very rarely seen among children or adults.

Poliomyelitis.

Ten cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the District during the year, one of which proved fatal.

Eight of these cases occurred in a localised outbreak in the Little Heath, Brookman's Park and Welham Green area during June and July. Full investigation of each case was undertaken as part of a special epidemiological study of the Ministry of Health to endeavour to trace the sources of infection. Two cases at Brookman's Park were direct contacts living in the same house, while two attended Little Heath School.

All the cases were young children aged 2—8 years, except the fatal case aged 33 years, at Brookman's Park. Fortunately most of these childhood cases were mild, subsequent enquiry showing that five of the nine have no resultant muscle weakness. All practical steps were taken at Little Heath School to minimise the risk of further cases occurring.

Tuberculosis.

A complete check was made of all cases of tuberculosis at present on the registers for this area during the year, in order to bring the records up to date, and as correct as possible. The tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows :—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On the register at 31st Decem- ber, 1948	68	19	39	21	147
Removals from the register during the year	21	7	21	6	55
Added to the register during the year	24	1	18	1	44
On the register at 31st Decem- ber, 1949	71	13	36	16	136

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis, treatment and supervision of all cases in the district, the Chest Physician attending on Thursday for the examination of patients in this district. In each case following diagnosis home visiting is promptly arranged through the Health Visitors attached to the Clinic, and a full report of the home circumstances is received by the Medical Officer of Health, who is thus able to assess the special needs of each case brought onto the register. The necessity for special consideration of the housing needs of tuberculous persons is fully recognised by the Housing Committee of the District Council, and high priority is given to all such cases represented to the Committee by the Medical Officer of Health. There is however, still a need for closer integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting, and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

Mass Radiography.

There have been no visits of the mass radiography unit to the district during the year, but these facilities have been available for industrial groups from the town of Luton and St. Albans.

Section D.—HOUSING.

The housing shortage continues to be the main cause of unsatisfactory social and health standards throughout the District. The following figures supplied by the Housing Manager illustrates the progress achieved during the year :—

	31st Dec. 1948	31st Dec. 1949
Number of houses owned by the Council	1,075	1,195
Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation	94	90
Number of families housed in temporary huts	28	28
Number of families housed during the year—		
(i) New accommodation { Temporary	—	—
{ Permanent	137	120
(ii) Other accommodation	17	44
Number of applicants on housing lists ...	953	917

While the housing shortage is felt most acutely at Hatfield, the main industrial centre of the area, the difficulties of the rural worker must not be forgotten. All too frequently the stout well laid brick exterior walls of old rural cottages serve to mask the general dilapidation and unsatisfactory standards of ventilation, lighting and sanitation within. The total absence of modern domestic facilities and elementary sanitation installations combined with dampness, darkness and draughts throughout the winter months, are responsible for much ill health and sickness among the rural families. The great strides made in providing piped water supply in rural areas is worthy of note, while the new houses erected in the post war years create new standards of home life for the agricultural worker and his family.

The unauthorised siting of caravans in fields south of Hatfield and at Bell Bar must inevitably give rise to anxiety to those responsible for safeguarding the public health. Temporary accumulations of caravans without satisfactory arrangements for sanitation and refuse disposal can become a very real menace to the health of the permanent residents in the area, especially when the caravans are placed adjacent to the more densely populated urban communities.

On visiting the caravans it is usual to find them comparatively well equipped and provided the inhabitants are careful in the choice of site and avoiding nuisance from refuse disposal and litter they can be satisfactory from a public health point of view during the summer months, but in the winter they are no place for children, and the disposal of the contents of bucket latrines on the surface of the soil or in shallow trenches cannot be regarded with complacency. They swell the already overflowing housing lists, and attract further caravan dwellers in their wake, so that the problem once created would appear to be unending.

Section E. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) *New Extensions.* The following extensions to water mains were approved :—

Parish of Hatfield.

(1) Further consideration having been given to the substitution of the proposed temporary water supply to Tylers Causeway, by a permanent extension of the Barnet Water Company's main, it was decided to apply to the Ministry of Health for approval to a scheme for laying approximately 2,060 yards of 4 in. main at an estimated cost of £2,500, and this was approved.

(2) A further length of approximately 617 yards, at a cost of £870, to supply several properties to the East of the village of Newgate Street.

(3) A length of approximately 1,977 yards at a cost of £3,700, to supply the hamlet of Cromer Hyde.

Parish of Essendon.

An extension of the water main to supply Edgell Cottage was carried out at a cost of £220 for a length of 200 yards.

SEWERS AND SEWER EXTENSIONS.

(a) *Hatfield Parish—Sewage Disposal Arrangements New Town Area.*

Discussions on the question of sewerage arrangements for the New Town Area, have continued between the Council, New Town Development Corporation, Colne Valley Sewerage Board.

(b) The laying of approximately 1,756 feet of 6 in. soil sewer to serve the village of Mill Green has been completed. This provides main drainage for the new Council houses, and existing properties in the village.

(c) *Parish of North Mymms.*

Owing to the heavy flow into the sewers draining to the Water End Pumping Station with a risk of flooding the station in times of heavy rainfall, an overflow is to be constructed and this proposal has the approval of the Conservancy Boards concerned.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Hatfield, Welham Green, Essendon and Newgate Street have on the whole functioned satisfactorily throughout the year.

Although no really bad samples of effluent have been taken, several border line ones have been produced at Cuffley and Newgate Street, containing too much suspended matter. At both these works there is no direct outlet to the stream, and at times suspended matter is washed into the water courses from off the land.

To effect improvement at Newgate Street a sand filter is to be constructed, but at Cuffley the difficulties will only be overcome by abandoning the works, and connecting to the East Middlesex Scheme,

when the new trunk sewer for the Cuffley Brook area is available. Until this is provided, the disposal of sewage at Cuffley will be unsatisfactory. Progress in provision of a Sewage Disposal Plant at Northaw has not been possible owing to the delay in securing the desired site for the works.

Improvements have been carried out at Welham Green Disposal works by the levelling and skimming off of the sludge area, by means of a bulldozer. The area had become thoroughly over-loaded, so that it was impossible to plough the land and taking advantage of an exceptionally dry spell of weather the land was turned into a suitable condition for the work to be carried out. The operation has provided a larger area for the disposal of the sludge.

Notification was received from the Eastern Electricity Board that everything possible would be done to maintain the supply to the pumping stations, and that in the event of load shedding being unavoidable the supply would be interrupted on Tuesdays. After a "cut out" it is necessary to visit all the stations to prevent the burning out of the motors when the current is resumed.

Severe damage was done to the buildings and plant at the Gobions Wood Storm Overflow by persons unknown. Repairs have been effected, and the plant is again in working order.

Refuse Collection.

A fortnightly collection is being maintained throughout the area. The Parishes of Hatfield and Essendon are covered by the Council's own staff, and the other two Parishes by contract. On occasions difficulty has arisen owing to shortage of labour for this rather dirty and laborious work.

Paper Salvage.

During the year the Council decided to discontinue the collection of waste paper, as the service was a financial loss, but decided to provide a collection of paper and tins from business premises at fortnightly intervals, on payment.

Cesspool Emptying.

There are approximately 450 Cesspools in the area, and the Council operate a cleansing service using a 750 gallon machine. It was decided to increase the free cleansing from two to three each year, with a greater number in areas when the provision of main drainage had been held up or presented special difficulty. The number emptied during the year was 600.

Private Streets. Road Gullies.

The responsibility of a District Council for the cleansing of road gullies connected to surface water sewers in Private Streets, was reported to the Council, when it was decided that arrangements should be made for the periodical cleansing of the gullies.

Section F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Eighty-nine visits were made for the purpose of inspecting meat and other foods, and the following is a list of foods surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Butcher's Meat</i>				lbs. wt.	
Beef ...	...	...	...	511	
Ox Livers ...	...	...	...	38	
Lamb ...	...	...	...	341	
Bacon ...	...	...	...	13	
Sausages ...	...	...	...	6	
Rabbits ...	...	...	...	481	
				<hr/>	1,390
<i>Tinned Meat</i> ...	...	...	...	167	167
<i>Other Tinned Food.</i>					
Peas ...	...	...	...	31	
Milk ...	...	...	...	157	
Vegetables ...	...	...	...	17	
Fruit ...	...	...	...	86	
Fruit Juice ...	...	...	...	13	
Soup ...	...	...	...	3	
Fish ...	...	...	...	4	
Spaghetti ...	...	...	...	1	
				<hr/>	312
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Cheese ...	...	...	...	32	
Jam ...	...	...	...	2	
Biscuit Meal ...	...	...	...	112	
Semolina ...	...	...	...	31	
Dried Peas ...	...	...	...	100	
Salad Cream ...	...	...	...	2	
				<hr/>	279
Eggs... ...	...	...	...	168	
Total ...					<hr/> 2,148 lbs. <hr/>

FOOD HYGIENE EXHIBITION.

A three-day exhibition, held in March in conjunction with the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was well attended by canteen workers and other food handlers, as well as by members of the public. Exhibits included a model of a canteen with special reference to the sub-sections of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ; contrasting “ old ” and “ new ” shops ; history of an outbreak of food poisoning ; apparatus likely to assist in the hygienic preparation of food.

Support and encouragement were forthcoming from the many undertakings large and small, local and national, who were asked to take part, and the undoubted success of the exhibition resulted from this most welcome co-operation.

Section G. GENERAL SUPERVISION.

RODENT CONTROL.

As from the 1st April, 1949, the Hatfield Rural District Council accepted delegation of the County Council's powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919. Nine infestations were treated by the County Council during the first three months of the year. A Rodent Operative was engaged and 70 infestations were dealt with by the Rural District Council as well as surveys and sewer treatment.

DISINFECTIONS.

Fifty-five disinfections were carried out following infectious diseases.

DISINFESTATIONS.

Eradication of bed-bugs was carried out at one house only, and 27 other disinfestations were concerned with fleas, flies, wasps and ants.

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and Sanitary
Inspector for 1949.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (Lond.) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H. from 29th August, 1949.

J. F. O'NEILL, M.B., B.Ch. (Acting from 1st January, 1949
to 28th August, 1949).

Sanitary Inspector.

C. B. BORTHWICK, M.Inst.M. and Cy.E., M.R. San. I.,
Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector.

Clerk.

A. A. W. CALLABY.

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,354
Population (mid-year 1949 as estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	5,260
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1949...	...	...	...	...	...	1,520
Rateable value of the District, 31st December, 1949...	...	...	...	...	...	£37,383
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£145

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is mainly agricultural in character, the old town of Welwyn where the Great North Road crosses the River Mimram being the natural centre of the area. The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote though only 25 miles north of London, while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas. The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded and agricultural country in Hertfordshire, and fortunately having escaped the urbanising influences of the inter war years retains its rural charm.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	37	27	64
Number of live births { Legitimate	57	47	104
{ Illegitimate	2	—	2
Number of still births { Legitimate	2	1	3
{ Illegitimate	—	—	—
Number of deaths of { Letitimate	1	1	2
infants under one year { Illegitimate	—	—	—

BIRTHS.

The gradual progressive rise in the birth rate during the past four years has been maintained, but may prove to be of little significance, being due to the increase of population above the figure supplied by the Registrar General.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Two deaths occurred of infants under one year of age, the small numbers rendering statistical comparison of death rates with previous years of little significance.

Male	5 months	Congenital defects.
Female	2 months	Broncho pneumonia

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	1949	1948
Deaths from puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—
Deaths from other maternal causes

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1940.

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1940	9.68	14.40	27.00
1941	11.91	11.38	32.25
1942	10.52	15.57	66.66
1943	10.23	16.29	12.82
1944	8.91	16.44	
1945	8.56	14.60	
1946	12.88	15.74	90.90
1947	10.81	18.83	42.55
1948	8.96	18.13	10.52
1949	12.16	20.15	18.86

DEATHS.

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred—in the district during the year :—

	Males	Females
Cancer, Malignant disease	5	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	6	4
Heart Diseases	12	11
Other circulatory diseases	2	2
Bronchitis	3	—
Pneumonia	1	2
Other digestive diseases	1	1
Congenital debility and Malformation	1	—
Suicide	2	—
Other deaths from violence	1	—
Other defined diseases	3	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes	37	27
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Personal Health Services in the Area, viz. Maternity and Child Welfare, Midwives, Home Nursing, Health Visiting and Home Help Service are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council.

A close link is maintained through the Divisional Health Office with the environmental sanitary services and other activities of the District Council. Committees of voluntary workers are active at Welwyn, Woolmer Green and Ayot St. Lawrence, and are responsible for a large part of the local arrangements for the Child Welfare Clinics and Home Nursing.

NURSING STAFF.

A Home Nurse/Midwife resides at No. 7, London Road, Welwyn, while nurses from Wheathampstead, Tewin and Welwyn Garden City assist in the work of the outlying parishes.

Clinic	Place	Time	Date
Child Welfare	The Hill Welwyn	2—4 p.m.	Fridays.
Child Welfare	Village Hall, Woolmer Green	2—4 p.m.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month.
Infant Weighing	Village Hall, Ayot St. Lawrence.	2.30—4 p.m.	3rd Wednesday in the month.
Ante-Natal Post-Natal	The Hill, Welwyn	2—4 p.m.	1st Thursday in the month.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

This service is administered by the Hertfordshire County Council for all pupils attending maintained schools in the district. Children in the three prescribed age groups and the eight year old group were examined during the year. Arrangements are made for the treatment of minor ailments and the examination and follow up of special cases at the schools, the specialist diagnostic and treatment sessions at Welwyn Garden City being available as required.

It is to be regretted that the school dental facilities at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, have had to be suspended owing to staffing difficulties. The deterioration in the standard of dental care of the lower age groups is now readily apparent.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

The proportion of infants and children fully protected is maintained at a high level. The success of the scheme is shown by the complete absence of all notifications of diphtheria during the year due to the co-operation of parents, doctors, teachers, nurses and voluntary workers. Immunization sessions are arranged at the schools, or at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, for large groups as necessary.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Attendances at the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics at Welwyn have been low since the introduction of the National Health Service, as more women receive their ante-natal supervision from medical practitioners or maternity hospitals. Apart from one or two isolated cases there is no evidence that the decline in clinic attendance figures indicates that expectant mothers are not seeking early and satisfactory supervision in pregnancy.

CHILD GUIDANCE.

Parents and children are referred to the Child Guidance Clinic of the Hertfordshire County Council attached to Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, for specialist advice and treatment.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

In addition to the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Welwyn, with 40 beds for general medical and surgical cases, the District is well served by the larger hospitals at Hitchin, St. Albans and Hertford. Full specialist diagnostic and treatment facilities are available at these centres.

With the closure of the Bocket Hall Maternity Hospital, maternity cases in need of hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The service has been maintained by the Hertfordshire County Council during the past two years and is administered with the Fire Service. The Staff and ambulances of the Welwyn Garden City Station cover all calls in the District with the assistance of the Hospital Car Service.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	74
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1

Apart from a widespread outbreak of measles among the children attending St. Mary's C. of E. Junior School, Welwyn, during September—December, the incidence of infectious diseases has been remarkably low.

The outbreak of measles at Welwyn coincided with the biennial rise in incidence, 54 out of 74 being pupils attending St. Mary's C. of E. Junior School. Children in the lower age groups, 5—8 years, were mainly affected, and all practical measures were taken to minimise the risk of spread at the school. The outbreak came to an end with the Christmas holidays.

Poliomyelitis.

One case of poliomyelitis occurred, a young girl in the Mardley Hill area. Fortunately recovery was good there being only slight residual weakness in the muscles of the neck, which is rapidly improving under physical treatment.

Tuberculosis.

A complete check was made of all cases of tuberculosis on the registers of the district during the year, in order to bring the records up to date, and as correct as possible. The Tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows :—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On the register at 31st December, 1949	11	4	8	7	30
Removals from the register during the year		3	2	1	6
Added to the register during the year	3	—	4	—	7
On the register at 31st December, 1949	14	1	10	6	31

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the treatment and supervision of cases in Welwyn, and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting of all cases is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors, and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case is fully investigated.

Section D. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY. (a) *Public Supply.*

A very small dose of chlorine has been continuously applied to all public water supplies throughout the year.

Samples taken from the various storages in turn have been submitted monthly for analysis and/or bacteriological examination. The reports have been consistently satisfactory.

Public supply is available throughout the Parish of Welwyn and the greater part of the Parish of Ayot St. Peter.

The average weekly consumption during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1950, was :—

- (i) From Welwyn Garden City Waterworks
(including 352,423 galls. per week supplied in bulk to Hertford R.D.C.) ... 1,752,000 galls.
- (ii) From Welwyn Waterworks 263,909 „
- (iii) Total from the two sources consumed in
Welwyn Rural District 1,663,486 „

(b) *Private Supplies.*

The Parish of Ayot St. Lawrence remains, as before, dependent upon private supplies. A scheme for carrying a piped supply to this Parish has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. A site for necessary Water Tower has been agreed.

2. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The number of cesspools or sewage tanks emptied by the Council's Cesspool Emptier during the year was 550 (679 loads—average 1.23 loads per emptying).

In addition, the sewage tank at Oaklands, for which the Council is responsible, was emptied 79 times ($469\frac{1}{2}$ loads—average 5.94 loads per emptying) and in addition the undermentioned Council properties were emptied :—

Council Offices (Sewage Tank) ...	1 time	2 loads
Welwyn Sewage Pumping Station (Screening Chamber)	6 times	$5\frac{1}{2}$ „
Woolmer Green Sewage Pumping Station (Screening Chamber) ...	44 „	$33\frac{1}{2}$ „
Burnham Green Cottages (sewage tank)	2 „	2 „
Station Road Cottages (sewage tank)...	3 „	3 „
Danesbury Camp (sewage tank) ...	4 „	3 „
Digswell Camp (sewage tank) ...	4 „	4 „

The average daily flow at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works was 65,945 gallons.

The lowest daily flow was 50,000 gallons on 24th July, 18th August and 24th December, on which days there was no rain. The highest daily flow was 172,000 gallons on 23rd October, on which day there was a rainfall of 1.15 in., following a fall of 0.065 in. on the previous day.

A scheme of main sewerage for the Mardley Hill, Oaklands, Canonsfield and Danesbury area is being prepared. The intention is to abandon the Sewage Disposal Works at Woolmer Green and lay a Trunk Sewer to bring all sewage down to the Works at Welwyn which are to be enlarged to deal with it.

3. RAINFALL.

The total rainfall recorded at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works during the year was 19.082 ins.

The average annual rainfall for the five years 1945-49 was 23.178 ins.

During 1949 there was a measurable fall of rain on 129 separate days, the heaviest daily fall being 1.15 in. on the 23rd October. The wettest month was October, with 5.215 ins. of rain and the driest month was September, with 0.405 in. of rain.

4. HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION.

A house to house weekly collection of house refuse and salvage was carried out by direct labour throughout the year.

The quantity of salvage of various types which was sold during the year ended 31st March, 1950, was 55 tons 17 cwts. 0 qrs. 20 lbs., and the payment received for this was £301 13s. 8d.

The grand total of salvage disposed of since a separate collection of salvage was started in March, 1940, is 1,027 tons 8 cwts. 0 qrs. 9 lbs., and this has been sold for £3,798 12s. 1d.

5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND VISITS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES.

Premises visited	...	...	...	90
Number of visits	...	...	...	133

The purpose of these visits was as follows :—

				Premises
Housing Defects	...	...	...	20
<i>Nuisances.</i>				
Cesspools	...	...	...	12
Drains	...	...	...	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	1
Smoke	...	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	2
Food	...	...	...	8
Swimming Pool	...	...	...	1
Disinfections following infectious disease	...	...	...	4
Pig sties and Poultry	...	...	...	3
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	3
Cow sheds and dairies	...	...	...	10
Milk samples	...	...	...	5
Shops	...	...	...	2
Caravan sites	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	9
				—
				90
				—

The cases of Infectious Disease were as follows :—

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	...	1
T.B.	...	...	...	1

6. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269.

Eleven licences to station caravans on various sites were issued during the year. It is the Council's custom to issue such licences for twelve months at a time only.

7. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS, ETC.

No new cases came under notice during the year.

8. HOUSING.

(i) *New Houses.* Six new houses were completed and one old house was divided into three maisonettes by private enterprise and 21 new houses were completed by the Council making a total of 29 additional separate dwellings during the year.

(ii) *Council's Housing Programme.* During the year a contract for a second instalment of 32 houses at Hawbush Common Estate was made and at the close of the year 38 houses were under contract for construction.

(iii) *Erection of Houses by Private Enterprise.* During the year the Council were only able to issue four building licences for the erection of dwellings by private persons, this being the then authorised 20 per

cent. of the Council's total allocation up to date of issue. Subsequent allocations of houses were made as a result of special representations to the Ministry to enable the Council to secure reduced prices and to complete the development of the central portion of the Hawbush Common Estate and thus be in a position to get some revenue from capital outlay in connection with the site development works and these latter allocations were approved upon the express condition that no portion should be set aside for private licences.

In Circular 102/49 dated the 4th November, 1949, the Minister of Health gave instructions that the issue of private licences should be wholly suspended pending further directions.

(iv.) *Requisitioned Property.* At the close of the year the Council held six dwellings under requisition and nine separate families and/or single persons living alone, were housed therein.

(v) *Hutted Camps.* Thirty-two families are still housed in ex-service huts (originally occupied by squatters) in two Camps, viz., 26 at Danesbury Park and six at Digswell.

9. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Food as detailed below was inspected and certified as unfit for human consumption and either destroyed, disposed of as pig food or returned to the suppliers for salvage. Certificates were issued in all cases to the persons by whom the food was held at the time of inspection, in accordance with the emergency arrangements agreed with the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Health.

(i) *Food in tins or other containers.*

Description	No. of Containers	Weight.	
		cwts. lbs.	ozs.
Meat	11	14	11½
Milk	63	61	3
Vegetables, misc.	50	65	7¾
Fruit, misc.	19	22	10½
Preserves	2	3	0
Soup	3	3	4½
Fish, misc.	5	4	2½
	153	1 62	7¾

(ii) *Loose Foods.*

	lbs.	ozs.
Fish	220	8
Sweets	4	2
Butter	27	8
Margarine	2	0
Bacon	12	0
Cheese	69	11

Total : 2 cwts, 111 lbs., 13 ozs.

Total weight of all foods condemned : 4 cwts., 62 lbs., 4¾ ozs.

